

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING TRANSACTIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus are described for facilitating transactions in a wide area
5 network. Information relating to a transaction between a first party and a second party is
provided to a third party via the wide area network. The third party is then enabled to
facilitate consummation of the transaction between the first and second parties via the wide
area network. According to a specific embodiment, the information includes a bid price
associated with the first party and an ask price associated with the second party, the third
10 party being enabled to cover at least part of a difference between the bid and ask prices via
the wide area network.